



HB394 PUBLIC SCHOOLS - FEES FOR SUMMER SCHOOL COURSES – PROHIBITION

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

OPPOSE

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Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) opposes **HB394 Public Schools - Fees for Summer School Courses – Prohibition**. This bill prohibits a local school system from charging a student a fee for enrollment in a summer school course if 1) the student attends a school in the local school system; 2) credit for the course is required for graduation from a high school in the local school system; and 3) the student previously took the course, but did not successfully complete or receive credit for the course.

This legislation is an unfunded mandate. In accordance with AACPS policy, tuition for summer school courses is set at \$300 per course. However, AACPS offers tuition reduction for students who qualify for free and reduced meals and students from families on government assistance programs such as medical assistance or SNAP. Tuition waivers or reductions account for more than two-thirds of the students. For example, AACPS waived tuition for the 1,463 AACPS students who attended summer school in 2020. AACPS anticipates that implementation of this legislation would cost approximately \$270,000 and closer to \$300,000 in out years, thus, creating an unfunded mandate at a time when we are already facing significant funding shortfalls as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While AACPS firmly believes that summer school must be affordable and accessible for all students, we believe that this legislation would have unintended consequences. AACPS has historical data to support that 1) summer school tuition inspires students to pass classes during the regular school year, and 2) students who must pay some tuition towards a summer class take the class more seriously and are more likely to pass the course during the summer.

Accordingly, AACPS respectfully requests an **UNFAVORABLE** committee report on HB394.